

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT AS A PART OF INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: HOME STUDY FOR SUMY REGION

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Forests are our wealth. That's why we need to care for and protect them. For this purpose it can be used the modern concept of woodlot management.

Sumy region with its area of 23,800 km² is rich in forests. They occupied 17% of its territory [1]. In northern part of the region there are dominated mixed forests (pine, birch, oak), in the central and southern parts - island forests (mainly maple, ash, oak groves). Therefore rational use of forest resources by applying the concept of woodlot management is actual for Sumy region.

Woodlot management is the important component of the regional system of Integrated Resource Management (IRM). IRM is a means of realizing many benefits from a forest or other natural area, and making sure the renewable benefits for future generations. It examines the relationship between various types of resource use and the effects that one resource has on other resources. With IRM all resource values are considered when making decisions [2].

IRM does not necessarily mean more wood, more wildlife or more money, but it does help keep these things in proper balance. It is very important for forest management. However regional authorities are interested in these changes. But they should be aware that by using this process, all objectives do not have to be met on all sections of woodlot.

IRM involves four C's: compatibility, conflict, compromise, and consultation. It brings compatible ideas together and allows regional authorities to meet several goals at the same time, while minimizing conflicts. It sometimes requires compromises and consulting population and enterprises that live and work near [2].

Within the frameworks of IRM potential activities and values from woodland can include: recreation (e.g. hiking, biking, skiing); wildlife habitat; forest products manufacturing; intrinsic or existence values; nontimber forest products; biodiversity; soil and water conservation; gravel extraction; Christmas trees. With regard to these activities and values plan of woodlot management must include a number of important components of IRM. They can be represented in 6 Basic Steps (Table 1).

According to the presented plan the first step can be done to improve the territorial property for personal recreation or make it accessible for community use. In order to identify resources (step 2) it should be obtained some recent aerial photos to determine the location of open water, nonforested areas, wetlands, and softwood and hardwood cover types. The next step is to make the list of goals more realistic by setting priorities. After this it is important to work with neighbors on the cooperation base, because ecosystems

are not restricted by property boundaries and their sustainable development is a common care of different territorial authorities. The next fifth step includes several types of activities and measures to maintain the state of the ecosystems. The final step is to develop an IRM Plan on four major sections, listed in Table 1 [3].

Table 1 - IRM in Six Basic Steps [2]

Step	Characteristics
1. Set Goals & Objectives	Goals are a list of things that local authorities are doing or would like to do on territorial ownership. Also the aim may be to improve tree auality and increase wildlife habitat auality. It should be prepared a list that includes what want to do on site and what are doing already. These goals can be grouped according to specific resource benefits such as: timber, wildlife, aesthetics or recreation
2. Identify Resources	A key to practicing IRM effectively is setting to know woodlot and working with territorial property. Woodlot resources can include things like beaches, scenic locations for campsites or cabins, timber quantity and quality. Personal resources can include time, support, financial resources, expertise and equipment
3. Set Priorities	List of goals should be compared with the available resources to the territorial property and it should be chosen realistic priorities. To set priorities, a great attention must be paid to complementary and conflicting goals and objectives. The more goals of activity fulfill the more worthwhile the activity becomes. Conflicting goals require separate areas or considerable effort to achieve
4. Work With Neighbors	Ecosystems do not stop at property boundaries. Thus, ecosystem management requires cooperation among landowners. If one person protects an area along a property line while the other clear-cuts to the edge, the opportunity for a significant wildlife corridor or recreation area will be lost
5. Things to Consider for IRM Plan	The primary emphasis with IRM is on the condition in which the ecosystem is maintained
6. Develop an IRM Plan	Consists of four parts: Introduction (Woodlot location, Woodlot history, Goals & Objectives); Woodlot Description (Map, Boundary line conditions, Significant features, Stand or ecosystem descriptions, including ecosystem health); Recommendations (Zoning, Schedule of activities, Operating plan); Summary (Sources of further information, Record keeping information).

Depending on objectives and resources of Sumy region, practical implementation

of presented IRM plan for woodlot management allows developing such directions as Recreation & Aesthetics, Protect Areas, Minerals & Aggregates, Roads & Trails, Community use, Wildlife management at the territory. Due to the large area of forests in Sumy region, applying of IRM/woodlot management concept can provide the sustainable development of forest resources and increase their integral quality.

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